PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE NINTH SESSION

OF

THE SRI MULAM POPULAR ASSEMBLY

OF

TRAVANCORE.

The Ninth Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly was held in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, Trivandrum, on Wednesday, the 12th February 1913, and the following days.

2. The Members for the Session were elected and nominated under the Revised Rules, as modified by Notifications Nos. P. 375 and P. 929, dated the 7th October 1911 and the 30th October 1912 respectively, published in the Government Gazette. (Vide Appendix A). In all, there were 90 Members, distributed as follows :—

Members elected by the Taluk Voters under Rule II	....	43
Do. Do. by the Planters under Rule III	....	3
Do. Do. by the Mercantile Classes under Rule IV	....	6
Do. Do. by the Town Improvement Committees under Rule V	...	13
Do. Do. by the Jenmies under Rule VI	...	3
Do. nominated by the Government under Rule VII	...	22
	TOTAL....	90

A list of the Members is published as Appendix B. Messrs. A. N. Kesava Pillai (T. I. C., Kottayam) and M. Rama Varma (Nominated) were absent throughout the proceedings of the Assembly. Mr. K. A. Krishna Pattar (Trading Classes, Quilon) was present only during the first few days of the sittings and was absent when his subjects were called, and Messrs. P. K. Kochuvava (Nominated) and K. Parameswaren Pillai, B. A. & B. L. (Trivandrum taluk) were each absent for one of their subjects.

The proceedings of the Assembly commenced at 12 Noon on the 12th February 1913. Dewan Bahadur P. Rajagopala Chari, Esquire, M. A., B. L., C. I. E., the Dewan, presided. There were present R. A. Graham, Esquire, I. C. S., the Acting British Resident in Travancore and Cochin, Captain Rupert Berkeley, the Assistant Resident, M. R. Ry. M. Krishnan Nair Avergal, B. A., B. L., the Chief Justice, and other heads of departments and offices and several non-official gentlemen.

The Dewan opened the Assembly with the following

ADDRESS.

Gentlemen,

By command of His Highness the Maha Raja, I have great pleasure in welcoming you to the Ninth Session of the Assembly. Copies of the Administration Report for

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1087—in English and in Malayalam—will, as usual, be placed in your hands. The Report should enable you to see how the administration was conducted during the year. It should also be useful to you in making your representations.

2. **Casualties.**—We lost by retirement or by death several of our high officers during the year. Early in Kanni 1087, Mr. K. P. Sankara Menon retired from the High Court Bench, and unfortunately died soon after. Mr. P. Ramakrishna Iyer, the Dewan Peishkar and District Magistrate of Kottayam, retired in Vrischikam 1087, after a long service of over 33 years, spent wholly in the Executive line. In Kumbham 1087, Dr. Mitchell, the Director of Public Instruction, left on leave, and retired subsequently, after an efficient service of over 21 years in the Education Department. Major Bidie, I. M. S., whose services had been obtained on loan from the British Government for the Darbar Physicianship, left us in Medom 1087, on reversion to his own service. And lastly, I grieve to record the death, in Edavom 1087, of Mr. M. K. Ramachandra Rao, of the High Court Bench. A thoroughly blameless man and a very sound Judge, Mr. Ramachandra Rao will be long missed in the public service of Travancore. But good as he was as a Judge, he will probably be remembered, hereafter, even more for his excellent work in investigating into and reporting upon the Religious and Charitable Institutions of the State, than for his judicial work. The reforms which His Highness' Government have been introducing in these Institutions during the last four years would not have been possible but for Mr. Ramachandra Rao's arduous labours.

3. **Financial.**—Financially, the year 1087 was a prosperous one. The Receipts aggregated to Rs. 1,37,67,588, and the Disbursements to Rs. 1,34,54,991, with the result that there was a Surplus of Rs. 3,12,597, which raised the Government Balance from Rs. 72,65,453 to Rs. 75,78,050. The Revenues of the Government have, as you know, been rising for several years; the improvement continued in 1087, the Revenue of which exceeded that of 1086 by Rs. 9,58,390. The increase was under almost all heads, notably under Land Revenue (about 3 1/3 lakhs), Salt (over 1/3 lakh), Excise (about 2/3 lakh), Stamps (over 1 1/3 lakh), Registration (nearly a lakh), Mint (nearly half a lakh), Education (about 1/3 lakh) and Post or Anchal (over half a lakh). There was an inappreciable fall under Forest and Marine—less than Rs. 5,000 under each head. Under Customs, the fall (over Rs. 40,000) was nominal, being due to the circumstance that the compensation due from the British Government under the Interportal Trade Convention was actually realised and credited in the Darbar accounts only after the year had closed. Compared to 1086, the Expenditure of 1087 showed the very large increase of Rs. 15,93,033. The increased expenditure was contributed to mainly by His Highness the Maha Raja's tour to Delhi and the Murajapam ceremony, these two items accounting for Rs. 7,76,677, or about half the increase. There were increases under other items also, Public Works accounting for Rs. 2,12,000, Education Rs. 1,60,000, Law and Justice Rs. 1,09,000, Medical and Sanitary Rs. 83,000, and Stationery and Printing another Rs. 83,000. Of the fact that the financial position of His Highness' Government is now thoroughly satisfactory, there can be no stronger proof than the circumstance that, notwithstanding two extraordinary items such as the Murajapam and the trip to Delhi, and notwithstanding also the substantially larger outlay on so many Departments, notably Public Works, Educational, Law and Justice, and Medical and Sanitary, a surplus of over 3 lakhs was secured. The Government have therefore taken action towards starting the Sinking Fund for liquidating the Capital Liability of over B. Rs. 118 lakhs outstanding against them on account of the Shencotta—Quilon Railway. A sum of B. Rs. two lakhs

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